

REC'D DEC 11 2008

ALTERNATIVE PLAN SUBMITTAL SHEET

School Administrative Unit Submitting Alternative Plan:

- MONHEGAN ISLAND SCHOOL

Contact Information:

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Date Plan Submitted by SAU: December 9, 2008

The intent to submit an alternative plan has been approved by the Commissioner in the approval of the Notice of Intent?

☒ YES

☐ NO

(If NO, please explain.)

Alternative Plan Cover Sheet

(Please attach Alternative Plan as Exhibit A)

Plan Requirements				
Item	Complete	In Progress	Not Yet Started	Need Assistance ¹
Plan addresses how the SAU will reorganize administrative functions, duties and noninstructional personnel so that projected expenditures of RSU in fiscal 2008-2009 for the following areas will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program.				
system administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
special education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
facilities and maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plan addresses how cost savings will be achieved in fiscal 2008-2009 for the above four areas.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parameters for Plan Development				
Enrollment meets requirements (2,500 except where circumstances justify an exception)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
When viewed in conjunction with surrounding proposed units, may not result in one or more municipalities being denied the option to join an RSU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Includes at least one publicly supported high school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Consistent with policies set forth in section 1451	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of teachers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No displacement of students	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
No closures of schools existing or operating during school year immediately preceding reorganization, except as permitted under section 1512	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Collaborative Agreements				
		Yes	No	
Does your plan currently include information/documentation on collaborative agreements? (not required, but encouraged)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS SITUATION

¹ Please explain what assistance you need to complete this portion of your plan, and state from whom you need assistance, on the next page.

Actual number of students for which the SAU is fiscally responsible: 7

SEE
PLAN

Please use this section to describe your needs for assistance and from whom you need assistance.

[illegible]

Monhegan Island Elementary School

ALTERNATIVE PLAN

(revised December 9, 2008)

Submitted by

Bruce Ives, Superintendent

REC'D DEC 11 2008

Alternative Plan

SAU: **Monhegan Island Elementary School**

Person submitting plan: **Bruce Ives, Superintendent**

Date resubmitted: **December 10, 2008**

A. Introduction (from Maine Island Schools' Concept Draft)

There are 14 remaining island schools in Maine located on the islands of Peaks, Cliff, Long, Chebeague, Vinalhaven, North Haven, Islesboro, Monhegan, Matinicus, Frenchboro, Islesford, Great Cranberry, Isle au Haut, and Swans. Maine's island schools share a number of special characteristics that make them distinct from their mainland counterparts.

Geographic Isolation - All require a ferry ride to reach the mainland. This is weather-dependent, time-consuming and sometimes necessitates over-night stays. There are times, particularly during winter months, when the islands are not accessible from the mainland due to hazardous conditions. This factor affects all aspects of island schools, including educational programming costs.

Extremely variable enrollments and multi-grade classrooms - On islands, student enrollments typically vary significantly from grade to grade and from year to year. Multi-graded classrooms with grade spans up to 3 to 5 and even 8 grades in one classroom are the norm.

Exceptional costs - When compared with mainland schools, island schools have high operational costs due to factors associated with their geographic isolation and low enrollments. This puts these schools at significant risk of closure if consolidated into a mainland-based district.

Financial self-sufficiency and community investment - As minimum receivers, island schools sustain themselves, making the most of every locally raised tax dollar. Islanders have contributed significantly to building and supporting educational programs and facilities at their schools.

High performing - Several Maine island schools have consistently been recognized as high performing schools in Maine. Enhanced collaboration could transfer the success of these programs to other Maine island schools.

Island sustainability - Most significantly, an island which offers a school to young families is an island that can sustain a year-round population. The closure of an island school results in the flight of families to the mainland, and, in time, the island becomes a seasonal enclave and the year-round community is permanently lost.

B. Collaboration

Monhegan will participate, to the extent feasible, in the Maine Island Schools Collaborative with the goal of sharing services, resources, and expertise to maintain and promote the excellence of island education.

- Technology and data processing
- Insurance coverage
- Staff development
- Curriculum development
- Student inter-island programming
- Student testing and assessment
- Distance learning

Activities:

- 1, Representatives from each participating island will meet twice a year at The Island Institute to discuss and review ways to work together and seek means to maximize available resources and create efficiencies.
2. Inter-island professional development activities will be planned on an on-going basis.
3. As possible, cooperative agreements will be encouraged with island partners and mainland school systems.

C. Cost-savings study: As part of the Alternative Plan, the Monhegan School Committee and the superintendent will study means by which cost-savings may be realized in four specific areas:

1. **Administration:** School committee members expend innumerable hours providing voluntary time to (a) fiscal management, (b) policy management, (c) operation/maintenance of facility, and (d) technology coordination. Such time, outside general committee responsibilities, will be factored into administrative costs, and projected expenditures that would normally be part of the approved budget will be considered a savings to the community taxpayers. Also, present budgeted amounts will be reviewed for possible savings; however, most are negotiated, contractual figures.

1. Administrative costs:

A. 2007-2008	\$23,008.
B. 2008-2009	\$23,414. (\$406.)

- \$300. Negotiated salary increase
- \$100. Professional development increase
- \$2. Dues increase
- \$4. Medicare increase

2. Operation of Plant: Custodial services and maintenance lines will be reviewed to determine increased efficiencies and cost-savings.

A. 2007-2008	\$21,450.
B. 2008-2009	\$ 12,800. -(\$8650.)

3. Special Education: Only \$2500 were budgeted in the 2007-2008 school year. The School Committee will request Monhegan Boat Line to decrease ferry costs related to special education travel to islander rates. Other dollar amounts in this account are negotiated, contractual figures.

A. 2007-2008	\$2500.
B. 2008-2009	\$20,600 (\$18,100)

- This increase is due to the IEP requirement to employ a one-on-one Educational Technician for a special needs child.

4. Transportation: The Monhegan school budget does not have a transportation account. If off-island student transportation is necessary as part of educational programming, it is funded by individuals or grant monies outside the regular budget.

D. Conclusion

The Monhegan Elementary School will make every possible effort through its Alternative Plan to satisfy expectations of the reorganization statutes. Recognizing and appreciating its exempt status will not deter the island's School Committee's diligent attempts to adhere to legislated intent.

FY09 Assurances

P.L. 207, Chapter 240, Part XXXX-36(6)(F) that ...”the projected expenditures in FY2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional program”

The Monhegan Elementary School has thoroughly examined its educational needs and has evaluated its services and costs associated with doing business on the island. The School Committee and community are fully committed to offering a program of studies that meets the requirement of the Maine Learning Results as well as offering a well-rounded educational opportunity for all of its five children.

The budgeted expenditures in 2008-2009 for system administration, transportation, special education, and facilities and maintenance will not have an adverse impact on the instructional programs offered on Monhegan Island.